

# Château Pape Clement 2005

CSPC# 753465

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon

## Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

## Website

<http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/wines/chateau-pape-clement>

## General Info

The red wine of Chateau Pape Clement is a classified growth. The vineyards were first planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth, the youngest son of a noble family from Bordeaux. He was elected Pope in 1305, during the reign of Philippe le Bel, and took the name of Clément V. Château Pape Clément belonged to the Archbishop of Bordeaux until the French Revolution. Wine has been made here continuously for 7 centuries. Château Pape Clément is one of the brightest stars in the extensive range of vineyards Bernard Magrez owns worldwide. Based in Bordeaux, the great owner has made quality his personal battle, his strength in facing the increasing competition in the wine business. Hence, the care lavished on this land to exceptional qualities of which have made Pessac's reputation for over seven centuries. Pruning and leafing according to unusually demanding standards, hand destemming, vinification and maturation in accordance with the strictest rules, all implemented so that Nature can freely express the best she has to offer. With his grand Cru Classé de Graves, Bernard Magrez gives us a rare elegance and strength of which reminds us how unequalled the Bordeaux tradition remains. The production of the white Château Pape Clément has been increased some years ago. It is in general dry, rarely heavy, with spicy notes which are typical for graves from Pessac.

## Vineyards

The vineyards today account for 57 hectares of the Pessac-Léognan *vignoble*, with three distinct *terroirs* across the estate as a whole. Over a limestone bedrock which originated in the Oligocene and Miocene eras, there are the gravels that typify the region as a whole, as well as areas of clay and sand. The vineyards to the west are sandier, with a deep seam of gravel, whereas as those to the east have an increasingly significant amount of clay, and those to the north of the estate the soils are particularly thin and poor. The red vines, which cover 30 of the 32.5 hectares, are 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the Cabernet Franc of Jean-Baptiste Clerc having long since disappeared. Vine density is 7,700 vines per hectare. Knowledge of the *terroir* is important, as the former variety is planted mainly to the gravelly areas whereas Merlot is selected for those soils with more clay. The majority of these vines have more than 25 years of age, and many are over 40.

## Harvest

Monday, September 19, 2005

## Vinification/ Maturation

The grapes are initially sorted in the vineyard, hand-picked into small crates, manually destemmed, and then put into wooden vats by gravity flow. Cool pre-fermentation maceration. Manual punching down of the cap. The wine is run off directly into new barrels via gravity flow, without any pumping. It is then aged for 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels.

## Tasting Notes

An inky black colour with a modern, concentrated almost new world nose. On the palate there is a sumptuous oily texture. Absolutely enormous with essence of tar, licorice, bitter chocolate and late-picked black fruits. This sweet, viscous, plump wine was almost too much for some tasters, but we think that it will mature into a blockbuster Pape Clement.

## Production

7,500 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2015-2043

## Scores/Awards

**96 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008

**92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006

**98 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008

**96-100 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007

**96-100 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006

**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2011



**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com – March 2008  
**92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 20, 2006  
**94 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008  
**96 points** - Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006  
**18.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2009  
**18.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2007  
**18-19 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2006  
**17 points/4 stars** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2006  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 7, 2012  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2008  
**17 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2006  
**92 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2008  
**91-94 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - April 2005  
**17.5 points** - Jacque Dupont, Le Point - November 2011  
**94 points** - Wine & Spirits Magazine  
**19 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**18 points** - La Revue du Vin France - April 2012  
**18 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012  
**93-95 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)

**Reviews** *"Dark in color, offering wonderful aromas of licorice, berry, fresh tobacco and currant, with Indian spices. Complex and full-bodied, with super silky tannins that caress every inch of the palate. Long and satisfying. A joy to taste this young wine. Best after 2015. 7,500 cases made."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Wow. Gorgeous aromas of meat, chocolate, berry and currant. Full-bodied but very soft, with round tannins and a long finish. Sophisticated. Score range: 92-94"*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Probably the greatest Pape-Clement ever made, the dense purple-colored 2005 (a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon) exhibits sumptuous notes of smoky scorched earth, graphite, melted licorice, and blackberries. Once past the exquisite perfume, the wine reveals full body, extraordinary concentration, plenty of chocolate, smoke, cassis, and blackberry flavors, and that unmistakable volcanic ash-like earthiness that comes from this appellation. The tannins are slightly sweeter than those found in most northern Medocs, but this is still a backward, large-scaled effort that requires 7-8 years of cellaring. It should last for 30-35 years."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"The possible perfection of this effort is not surprising given the way proprietor Bernard Magrez has been upgrading all of his estates, especially his flagship property, Pape-Clement. Over the last decade there has been a succession of brilliant wines from this terroir that is essentially sandwiched in a suburb of Bordeaux. The quintessential Pape-Clement, the 2005 is a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 38 hectoliters per hectare. Its dense plum/purple color is followed by a seductive perfume of crushed rocks, blueberries, raspberries, cedar, graphite, licorice, and smoke. Full-bodied and layered, it possesses blockbuster richness yet an ethereal delicacy and finesse that often seem incompatible, but the fresh acids, high tannins, and marvelous extract of the 2005 Bordeaux have all come together to produce something special, but that will require patience. This wine has some of the more supple, sweeter tannins of Bordeaux, but then again, it is a Pessac-Leognan, not a Medoc, and the percentage of Merlot is high for the vintage. I would anticipate this 2005 to be approachable around 2012, and last for 30+ years."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"The greatest Pape-Clement ever produced? There is no question that proprietor Bernard Magrez, backed up by the eminent consulting winemaker, Michel Rolland, has produced a succession of brilliant wines over the last decade or more. The 2005, a potential legend, boasts a dense purple color along with a glorious, smoky bouquet displaying notions of graphite, plums, cassis, licorice, and subtle oak. Full-bodied with magnificent intensity, beautiful fresh acidity, tremendous definition, and a powerful, moderately tannic, super-concentrated finish, this beauty should come into its own by 2010, and last for three decades or more. It is a prodigious effort!"*

**Reviews** - RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Pape-Clement 2005 has a surprisingly reticent nose at first but then blossoms in the glass to reveal a wine with impressive lift and delineation, very fine minerality developing in the glass with scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow, liquorice and black olive. The palate is medium-bodied but seems to develop more sinew in the glass. It has a firm structure: masculine with dark black fruits, tobacco, cedar and a touch of plum. Very good focus and poise, long and persistent on the tightly wound finish with a saline tang on the finish. It will require a few more years to reach its plateau. Drink 2015-2030. Tasted July 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted single blind at Southwold. This has a feminine, raspberry, blackberry and Xmas cake tinged nose that is more primal than other wines in this flight. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins, nicely balanced with a clean, correct, earthy/tobacco finish. Good breeding here, not too forced with a refined finish. Superb."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A very sweet nose of black berry, cassis and smoke. Just lacking a little definition. An opulent palate with firm tannins, superb balance on the mid-palate. Typical of these Pessac's quite masculine and authoritative with a dense, tannic, tobacco tinged finish. Good length. Impressive and may merit a higher score after bottling. Tasted April 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Dark in colour, offering wonderful aromas of licorice, berry, fresh tobacco and currant, with Indian spices. Complex and full-bodied, with super-silky tannins that caress every inch of the palate. Long and satisfying. A joy to taste this young wine. Best after 2015. 7,500 cases made."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"92-94 Barrel sample. This wine has great spice, nutmeg and black fig flavors. It is full of deep, brooding tannins, and packed with intense acidity. It's fresh but has good concentration."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Good deep red-ruby. Super ripe, expressive nose offers black plum, smoke, spices and leather. Denser, sweeter and fatter than the 2006; even more generous and forward today. But this impressively chewy and rich wine also has a powerful underlying spine and plenty of lurking power. Finishes very ripe and very long, with the tannins buried by smoky, mineral soil tones."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Particularly deep crimson. Rather more concentrated and oaky than most. A good rendition of the vintage in a more modern idiom than most Pessac-Léognans. Lots of extract and very obvious tannins. This should be a crowd-pleaser for quite a time. More ambitious than most, and therefore less relaxed. Drink 2016-26"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"A nose dominated by oak here, fine and well-polished, although there is an impressive layer of fruit hiding behind it as well. Aromatic, fresh and rich, with notes of loganberry and dark cherry. A brilliant palate, pure with seamless fruit. There is a huge envelope of oak around it at present, but this merely needs time. Very grippy finish, the tannins showing here, but it has balancing fruit for the structure throughout the palate. This will need a long rest in the cellar. Although massive, still very lifted and bright. Wonderful. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at four years of age. 18.5+/20 (November 2009)"*

- CK, The Wine Doctor

*"The nose here is dense and a little reticent, but what character it shows today is dark, dense, meaty and concentrated. Simply lovely style on the palate, pure and seamless yet obviously heavily stuffed. Nevertheless it*

**Reviews** *does have a textured, plush, mouth-filling and perhaps rather soft style which covers the tannins nicely. Broad but well directed. Good grip underneath it all. This has a very impressive style which has great potential. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at two years of age. 18.5+/20 (October 2007)"*

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

*"CS 45%, M 55%. A really dense colour here, outclassing just about every other wine here. A lovely, lifted, red fruit nose. Simply divine style here, with notes of white flower petals too. This presents a caressing, rounded texture on the palate, but with an elegant style. Rather a masculine feel to the tannins, which are ripe but very firm and solid. This is very well structured, not over-extracted, complex and very fine. Lovely finish. This has just bags of potential. From my 2005 Bordeaux en primeur tasting. 18-19/20 (April 2006)"*

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

*"Very ripe, modern wine. Red berry fruit with definite confit notes. Oak a little apparent but has a huge depth of fruit and firm, grippy tannins. Drink 2014-2025."*

- JL, *Decanter.com*

*"Still deep in color, this blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon provides complex aromas of smoke, truffle, licorice, black and blue fruit, earth, tobacco leaf, espresso bean and forest smells. Massive and intense, the wine flows over your palate with the weight of motor oil. As rich as it is, the fruit is incredibly polished, pure, refined and in balance. I'd hold off on popping a bottle until 2015-2020."*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Incredible richness, density and levels of liquefied fruit ooze across your palate. Not heavy or ponderous, it remains balanced and elegant. This is the finest Pape Clement ever produced."*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Owner Bernard Magrez has made serious investments here since the late 1990's and recent vintages have been outstanding thanks to extremely low yields, labour-intensive sorting of grapes and modern wine-making techniques. The 1998, tasted blind recently, outscored even Haut Brion itself. Prices are moving up at Pape Clément but so is the quality which bears no relation at all to the weedy wines of the early 1980's and before. The 2005 is made from 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, hand sorted and elevated in 100% new oak. An inky black colour with a modern, concentrated almost new world nose. On the palate there is a sumptuous oily texture. Absolutely enormous with essence of tar, licorice, bitter chocolate and late-picked black fruits. This sweet, viscous, plump wine was almost too much for some tasters, but we think that it will mature into a blockbuster Pape Clement."*

- Farr *Vintners*

*"Sweet, opulent, rich oaky nose but still with lovely freshness to the ripe fruits. The palate is savoury, dense and structured with lots of extraction and nice fruit intensity. It's certainly a big, rather oaky wine, but the quality of the fruit shines through. 91-94"*

- JG, *Wineanorak.com*

*"Yield 38 hl/ha; 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Focused bright, fresh fruit here. Plums, cherries to the fore, with firmer structure than other years and a taut, grippy finish. Not in a flattering phase at the moment."*

- JG, *Wineanorak.com*

*"In addition to the gravel soils, what distinguishes this historic Pessac property is an alluvial deposit from the Gironde, which left a layer of sand in some portions of the vineyard, a layer of clay in others. It was holy ground of the church in the 13th century; this latest vintage seems to reverberate with numinous warmth. It feels plump with fat currant flavor when first opened, developing more muscular structure over the course of several days. The tannins have a pebbly articulation, a terroir character that extends the flavor of the wine and seems to guarantee its greatness over the coming decades."*

- *Wine & Spirits Magazine*

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